

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/076,436

Examiner

Vincent E Kovalick

Applicant(s)

FUKUMURA

Art Unit

2673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's request for reconsideration dated August 13, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/27/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Reconsideration

1. This Office Action is in response to Applicant's Request for Reconsideration, dated August 13, 2004, in response to USPTO May 13, 2004.

Applicant's Remarks relative to Claims 1, 6, 12, 14 and 19 have merit and are sufficient to place the Application in a condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-20 is allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Relative to claim 1, the major difference between the teachings of the prior art of record (USP 6,011,467, Kamei et al. ; USP4,766,306, Bichsel et al and JP 11137720, Toshima) and that of the instant invention is that said prior art of record **does not teach a** multifunctional photoelectric switch comprising: a display section for displaying one of a first display information and a second display information, the first display information including a plurality of items concerning a threshold value, the second display information including a plurality of items concerning functions of said photoelectric switch; a switch for switching information to be displayed on said display section between the first display information and the second display information , and wherein the second display information is displayed on said display section, only a part of the plurality of items or all of the plurality of items in the second display information are sequentially displayed on said display section.

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Regarding claim 6, , the major difference between the teachings of the said prior art of record and that of the instant invention is that said prior art of record **does not teach** a multifunctional photoelectric switch comprising: a display section for displaying one of a first display information, a second display information, and a third display information, the first display information including a plurality of items concerning a threshold value, the second display information including a plurality of items concerning functions of said photoelectric switch, the third display information including a plurality of items concerning displays of said photoelectric switch; and a switch for switching information to be displayed on said display section among the first display information, the second display information, and the third display information.

Relative to claim 12, the major difference between the teachings of the said prior art of record and that of the instant invention is that said prior art of record **does not teach** a multifunctional photoelectric switch comprising: a display section for displaying one of a first display information and a second display information, the first display information including a plurality of items concerning a threshold value, the second display information including items concerning basic operation setting of said photoelectric switch and items concerning the other operational settings of said photoelectric switch, the second display information further including fifth selection item for selecting a first display information or the items concerning the other operational settings of said photoelectric switch in the second display information to display the selected items on said display section; wherein the fifth selection item is displayed on said display section after the items concerning basic operation setting of said photoelectric switch are displayed on said display section.

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As to claim 14, the major difference between the teachings of the said prior art of record and that of the instant invention is that said prior art of record **does not teach** a multifunctional photoelectric switch comprising: switching means for switching information to be displayed on said display section between the first display information and the second display information, and means for sequentially displaying some of the second plurality of items and means for sequentially displaying all of the second plurality of items when the second display information is displayed on said display section.

Regarding claim 19, the major difference between the teachings of the said prior art of record and that of the instant invention is that said prior art of record **does not teach** a multifunctional photoelectric switch comprising: a third display information including a plurality of items concerning displays of said photoelectric switch; and a switch including means for switching information to be displayed on said display section among the first display information, the second display information and the third display information.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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| U. S. Patent No. | 6,339,465 | Takanashi et al. |
| U. S. Patent No. | 6,011,467 | Kamei et al. |
| U. S. Patent No. | 5,604,386 | Nagai et al. |
| U. S. Patent No. | 4,766,306 | Bichsel et al. |
| U. S. Patent No. | 4,501,485 | Tsudaka |

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Responses

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vincent E Kovalick whose telephone number is 703 306-3020. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30- 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on 703 305-4938. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Vincent E. Kovalick
December 27, 2004



**BIPIN SHALWALA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**